



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202-418-0500
Internet: www.fcc.gov
TTY: 888-835-5322

DA 22-46

Released: January 14, 2022

FCC ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP

By this Public Notice, Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel announces, in partnership with Secretary of Labor Martin J. Walsh, the establishment of the Telecommunications Interagency Working Group (“Working Group”), a group formed pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.¹ Chairwoman Rosenworcel and Secretary Walsh established this interagency working group, effective January 14, 2022, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act “to develop recommendations to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, including the safety of that workforce.”² The Working Group will present its recommendations in a report to Congress that must be submitted no later than January 14, 2023, which is one year from the date the Working Group was established.³

Pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Working Group is comprised of representatives of Federal agencies (the FCC, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Department of Education), as well as representatives from industry, labor, and other stakeholder organizations. Chairwoman Rosenworcel appointed five members, Secretary Walsh appointed four members, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona appointed two members, and Evelyn Remaley, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, appointed one member to the Working Group. A full list of members to this Working Group is attached to this Public Notice.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act directs the Working Group to develop recommendations that will:

“(1) determine whether, and if so how, any Federal laws, regulations, guidance, policies, or practices, or any budgetary constraints, may be amended to strengthen the ability of institutions of higher education . . . or for-profit businesses to establish, adopt, or expand programs intended to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, including the workforce needed to build and maintain the 5G wireless infrastructure necessary to support 5G wireless technology;

“(2) identify potential policies and programs that could encourage and improve coordination among Federal agencies, between Federal agencies and States, and among States, on telecommunications workforce needs;

¹ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58, § 60602(a), 135 Stat. 429 (Nov. 15, 2021) (to be codified at 47 U.S.C. § 344) (“Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act”).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

“(3) identify ways in which existing Federal programs, including programs that help facilitate the employment of veterans and military personnel transitioning into civilian life, could be leveraged to help address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry;

“(4) identify ways to improve recruitment in workforce development programs in the telecommunications industry;

“(5) identify Federal incentives that could be provided to institutions of higher education, for-profit businesses, State workforce development boards . . . or other relevant stakeholders to establish or adopt new programs, expand current programs, or partner with registered apprenticeship programs, to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, including such needs in rural areas;

“(6) identify ways to improve the safety of telecommunications workers, including tower climbers; and

“(7) identify ways that trends in wages, benefits, and working conditions in the telecommunications industry impact recruitment of employees in the sector.”⁴

For more information, please contact Stacy Ferraro at 202-418-0795 or Stacy.Ferraro@fcc.gov, or Paul D’Ari at 202-418-1550 or Paul.Dari@fcc.gov.

⁴ *Id.*

MEMBERS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP

Amy Brett
Acting Chief of Staff
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Representative of the Federal Communications Commission, appointed by the Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission

J. Noah Brown
Senior Advisor
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
Department of Education
Representative of the Department of Education, appointed by the Secretary of Education

Kathy Gill
Chief Executive Officer
Tower Safety
Public Interest Advocate for Tower Climber Safety, appointed by the Secretary of Labor

Tim House
Executive Vice President
Wireless Infrastructure Association
Representative of a Telecommunications Industry Association, appointed by the Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission

Scott Ketcham
Director
Occupational Safety and Health Administration Directorate of Construction
Representative of the Directorate of Construction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Labor

Leticia Latino van Splunteren
Chief Executive Officer
Neptuno USA, Corp.
Representative of a Telecommunications Contractor Firm, appointed by the Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission

Scott Ralls
President
Wake Technical Community College
Representative of an Institution of Higher Education, appointed by the Secretary of Education

Christopher Shelton
President
Communications Workers of America
Representative of a Labor Organization Representing the Telecommunications Workforce, appointed by the Secretary of Labor

Chris Shilling
Undersecretary of Technology & Innovation
The Chickasaw Nation
Representative of an Indian Tribe, appointed by the Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission

Jim Simpson
Director of Installer-Technician (Telecommunications) and Residential Curriculum
electrical training ALLIANCE
Representative of a Registered Apprenticeship Program in Construction or Maintenance, appointed by the Secretary of Labor

Bruce Washington
Chief of Staff
Office of Spectrum Management
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Representative of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information

Kristi Westbrook
Chief Executive Officer & General Manager
Consolidated Telecommunications Company
Representative of a Rural Telecommunications Carrier, appointed by the Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission